

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION

*Organized in National Convention at New York
City, April 30, 1889.*

Incorporated June 1889

BALTIMORE,
Press of Isaac Friedenwald.
1889.

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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

The name of this Society shall be "THE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION" (organized April 30, 1889).

ARTICLE II.

The purposes of the Society are to keep alive among ourselves and our descendants and in the community the patriotic spirit of the men who achieved American Independence, to collect and secure for preservation the manuscript rolls, records, and other documents relating to the War of the Revolution, and to promote social intercourse and fellowship among its members now and hereafter.

ARTICLE III.

Any person shall be eligible for membership in the Society who is above the age of twenty-one years, and who is descended from an ancestor that assisted, while acting in any

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of the following capacities, in establishing American Independence during the War of the Revolution :

A military or a naval officer.

A soldier or a sailor.

An official in the service of any one of the Thirteen Original States or Colonies.

An official in the service of the United States or Colonies.

A recognized patriot who rendered material service to the cause of Independence.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. The Society shall embrace local organizations, co-equal State Societies, and a National representative body.

SEC. 2. When there is but one organization of the Society in a State, it shall constitute the State Society.

SEC. 3. Local Societies may be organized under direction of the State Society.

SEC. 4. Whenever there are two or more local Societies in a State, they shall organize a State Society, which shall be composed of such representatives as the local Societies in joint convention shall determine.

SEC. 5. The National organization shall be

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the National Council of the Society, and shall have adequate powers for the just maintenance of the common interests of the Society.

It shall consist of male delegates as follows :

(1) The President of each State Society.

(2) One delegate at large from each State Society.

(3) One delegate for every one hundred members of the Society within a State, and for a fraction of fifty or over.

SEC. 6. The following named officials shall be Honorary Members of the National body, without a vote in legislation, provided they are eligible to membership in the Society :

(1) The President of the United States, the Vice-President, and the Chief Justice.

(2) The Governors of the States and Territories of the Union.

(3) The Superintendents of the U. S. Military and Naval Academies.

(4) The Presidents of all Universities and of all Classical and Technical Colleges in the United States, the charters of which grant authority to confer degrees.

ARTICLE V.

A Society, which shall be in all respects co-equal with the State Societies, may be

organized under this Constitution, by not less than seven persons, in any Territory of the United States, in the District of Columbia, or in any foreign State.

ARTICLE VI.

The officers of the National organization shall be a President, a Vice-President at large, a Vice-President from each State Society, a Secretary and three Assistant Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Registrar, and a Chaplain, which officers shall constitute the Board of Management.

The President and the Vice-Presidents shall not be eligible for a second re-election as their own successors.

In all meetings of the Board of Management seven members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII.

The officers of a State organization shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and of such other officers as the said organization shall determine. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

All officers shall be elected in such manner and for such period as the State Society shall determine.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Board of Management of the National body shall provide a seal for its own use, and shall provide a badge which shall be the sole badge of the Society.

Each State Society may adopt a seal for its exclusive use.

ARTICLE IX.

SECTION 1. Each State Society shall transmit to the Secretary of the National organization for the records of the Society, on the first day of January in each year (or as soon thereafter as possible), (1) a roll of all the members, or changes therein, with line of descent from Revolution ancestor of each, and (2) a description of all important documents collected during the year.

SEC. 2. Each State Society shall forward to the Treasurer of the National organization, on or before the first day of January in each year, the sum of twenty-five cents for each member within the State in good standing, which money shall be applied to the uses of the Society, under the direction of the Board of Management.

SEC. 3. Each State Society now existing,

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or which may be organized within this year eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, shall remit to the Treasurer of the National organization, on or before the first day of July (or at the time of organization of such Society if after that date), the sum of twenty-five cents for each member in good standing, which money shall be applied to the uses of the Society, under the direction of the Board of Management.

ARTICLE X.

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the National body, by a vote of three-fourths of the members present, provided that a notice of sixty days be given by the Secretary of the proposed alteration or amendment.

BY-LAWS.

SECTION 1. The National organization shall hold an annual meeting on the thirtieth day of April in each year, at which the officers of that body shall be chosen. All nominations of officers shall be made from the floor and not by committee, and the elections shall be by ballot. Any person receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected, and shall hold office for the ensuing year and until his successor shall be chosen.

In the event of the appointed day of meeting falling upon Sunday, the meeting shall be held on the following day.

SEC. 2. A special meeting of the National body shall be called at the direction of the President, with the written consent or request of five members of the Board of Management, and a notice of thirty days shall be given by the Secretary of the purpose of such meeting.

SEC. 3. The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, or in his absence a Vice-Pres-

ident taking precedence in the order in which the several State Societies were organized, shall preside at the meetings of the National body.

The general duties of the officers shall be such as usually appertain to their offices.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the National organization shall conduct the general correspondence of that body. He shall have charge of the records, documents, and the seal, and, together with the presiding officer, shall certify all acts of the National body. He shall, under the direction of the President or the Vice-President at large, give due notice of the time and place of all meetings, and shall attend the same. He shall keep fair and accurate records of all the proceedings and orders, and shall give due notice to the several officers of all votes, orders, resolves and proceedings affecting them or appertaining to their duties.

SEC. 5. The Treasurer of the National organization shall receive the funds and securities of that body; they shall be deposited in a reliable bank or savings institution, to the credit of "The Society of the Sons of the American Revolution," and shall be drawn thence on the check of the Treasurer, for the uses of the

Society only, as directed by vote of the Society, or by the Board of Management upon the order of the Secretary and the certificate of the President. He shall keep a true account of his receipts and payments, and at each annual meeting shall report the same, at which time a committee shall be appointed to audit his accounts.

SEC. 6. The Registrar of the National organization shall keep a roll of all members of the Society, and shall have the care and custody of all historical, geographical, and genealogical papers, manuscripts and documents of which that body may become possessed. He shall make copies, under the direction of the Board of Management, of such documents as may be loaned temporarily to the Society. At each annual meeting he shall make a general report.

SEC. 7. The Board of Management of the National organization shall recommend plans for promoting the objects of the Society; shall prepare business, and shall authorize the disbursement and expenditure of unappropriated money in the treasury for the payment of current expenses.

It shall superintend the interests of the

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Society, and shall execute all such duties as may be committed to them by the Society.

It shall have power to fill any vacancy occurring or existing in the National body, and an officer so appointed shall act until the following annual election, or until his successor shall be chosen.

The undersigned, the President and Secretary of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the articles of association under which said Corporation is organized.

Attest.

New Haven June 3^d 1869

Lucius P. Deming
President,

James C. Cresap, Lt. U.S.A.,
Secretary.